Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 11 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 12 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 10 Mar 2023 at 12:34

Confidence: High for cold and dry conditions during most of Saturday but snow arriving later. High for milder weather on Sunday but turning very unsettled with rain and strong winds, then turning cold again early next week. Some uncertainty in rain or snow details so please keep updated with the forecast.

Headline for Saturday 11 Mar 2023: Dry, bright and cold then snow and low cloud developing late afternoon or evening with strengthening winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 11 Mar 2023

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Clear night	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	<05%	20%	70%	90%

Forecast for Saturday 11 Mar 2023

Weather: Mainly clear overnight with a widespread frost, severe in places. Dry with bright or sunny spells through the day but clouding over through the afternoon. Outbreaks of snow will arrive from the west around late afternoon before turning heavy and persistent in the evening with blizzards on the high tops.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 95% for most of the day, becoming 10% in the evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Excellent visibility during most of daylight hours. Deteriorating quite quickly later, especially in the evening, becoming very poor in snow with extensive cloud above 400m and blizzards on the tops.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Saturday 11 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	9/11 SW	10/13 S	9/11 S	9/13 SE	18/23 SE	21/28 SE	27/36 SE	31/42 SE	26/35 S
600	7/10 SW	8/10 S	8/10 S	10/14 SE	15/21 SE	18/27 SE	23/34 SE	29/43 SE	21/31 S
300	3/8 SW	3/9 SW	4/8 S	4/10 SE	8/18 SE	8/22 SE	11/26 SE	14/32 SE	9/24 S
Valley	2/5 NW	2/6 E	3/7 E	4/9 SE	7/15 SE	7/18 SE	10/22 SE	12/26 SE	6/17 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-4/-10	-5/-10	-5/-10	-4/-9	-4/-11	-4/-11	-4/-13	-4/-13	-2/-9
600	-3/-7	-3/-8	-4/-8	-2/-7	-2/-7	-1/-7	-3/-10	-2/-11	-0/-7
300	-1/-4	-2/-4	-3/-5	-0/-3	1/-2	2/-2	-1/-6	-1/-6	0/-4
Valley	-4/-5	-4/-5	-4/-5	2/1	4/1	4/2	2/-2	2/-3	3/1
Freezing Level*	00m	00m	00m	100m	200m	200m	200m	300m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Good hillwalking weather for most of the day. Note that conditions will deteriorate by evening so please plan accordingly to enjoy the best of the conditions.

Forecast for Sunday 12 Mar 2023

Weather: Snow overnight turning to rain at all levels before clearing by dawn. Bright interludes and patchy light rain in the morning then rain turning more persistent during the afternoon. Rain will turn heavy in the evening accompanied by strong southerly winds. Thawing snow and slush giving heavy and slippery underfoot conditions.

Maximum wind: South or Southwest 25mph gusts 35mph, gusting 45mph at times later on the high tops and ridges.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% improving to 60% in the morning, becoming 10% in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud and fog above 400m becoming patchy and lifting to 700m in the morning. Deteriorating in the afternoon, becoming poor in rain with extensive cloud developing, bases 400 to 600m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 4C rising to 9 or 10C.
At 800m: Minus 1C rising to 3C.
Freezing level: 400m, rising above summits by dawn.

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 10 March 2023 Location: Fairfield summit 873m at 12:35 Full report: Over the past 24 hours snow has settled down to valley levels. During daylight hours on Thursday, the precipitation was only falling as snow above c300m and the rain only changed to snow below 300m from late evening. Strangely though, there is not a dramatic increase in depth from 300m owing to the very fine nature of the snow. It was deposited on a strong, predominantly NE, wind so the greatest accumulations are on west facing slopes and in sheltered spots and hollows where there are drifts of up to 60cm. Trudging through these drifts of deep, soft snow is arduous and energy sapping. However such depth was the exception and, where exposed to the wind and sun, some paths up to 700m were actually clear and even dry. Despite a summit air temperature around midday of minus 4 degrees C, sunny aspects were thawing almost to summit level and this thaw was especially rapid below 300m. Fairfield's exposed summit plateau was covered in only about 2 to 3cm of soft snow with some rime ice on rocks. Ice was only encountered on drainage lines and where snow had been compacted by walkers' boots. However, the combination of a sharp frost down to valley level overnight tonight, some snow thawing during daylight hours and walkers compressing the snow means that walkers out on Saturday should expect to encounter far more ice than experienced and described today. Given the current conditions exposed routes on the high fells, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, should only be attempted by those with winter mountaineering experience owing to the amount of ice and snow. Despite the snow, the sheltered valleys felt warm and pleasant in the strong March sunshine creating a noticeable contrast with the chilly summit which, around midday, gave a windchill reading (what the temperature actually feels like) of minus 13 degrees C (and this in fairly light winds). Therefore full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Good navigational skills are always required, but are especially crucial when entering low cloud when combined with snow obscuring ground features. Given the potential to encounter more ice tomorrow, crampons and ice axe are strongly recommended for those attempting steep and exposed routes. Microspikes and walking poles are recommended for those tackling less demanding terrain. Goggles could also be useful to lessen the sting of any windblown hail or spindrift and, hopefully, sunglasses will once again be essential to walkers out early on Saturday as they definitely were today. However, at the time of writing, Lakeland is under a Met Office yellow warning for snow on Saturday from 3pm which walkers should plan and be prepared for to ensure that they do not get caught out. Temperature: minus 4.2 C, Maximum wind speed 19.5 mph, Wind chill: minus 12.9 C, Average wind speed: 11.5 mph

Issued at: 1234 on Fri 10 Mar 2023

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